

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.12.2024)

The Commission acknowledges the concerns related the recent episodes of high inflation. While mitigating the social impacts on vulnerable households is the primary responsibility of Member States, the EU has also taken relevant legislative and non-legislative measures.

For instance, Directive (EU) 2022/2041¹ aims to promote the adequacy of minimum wages to safeguard decent living and working conditions, including by promoting collective bargaining, also in line with Council Recommendation C/2023/1389².

The Euro Area Recommendation³ also calls to support wage developments that mitigate the loss in purchasing power, in particular for low-income earners. And the EU is also pursuing policies to foster productivity, as the best way to achieve sustainable wage increases.

The EU also supports Member States' efforts to ensure that pension systems are resilient and adequate, while preserving the sustainability of public finances, for instance by analysis in the Pension Adequacy Reports⁴.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility⁵ is supporting a wide range of goals to make our economies and societies more resilient, including social measures, which account for around 25% of its total budget, as allocated in the national recovery and resilience plans. These cover a range of topics, from employment and skills, to childcare, health and social protection.

As regards energy, the Electricity Directive 2019/944⁶ allows Member States to apply public interventions in the price setting for the supply of electricity to vulnerable households, under certain conditions, notably that they are limited in time and proportionate.

¹ Directive (EU) 2022/2041 of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 October 2022 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union (OJ L 275, 25.10.2022, p. 33–47) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022L2041>

² Council Recommendation of 12 June 2023 on strengthening social dialogue in the EU (C/2023/1389) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023H01389>

³ Council Recommendation of 12 April 2024 on the economic policy of the euro area (C/2024/2807) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024H02807>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10854>

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0241>

⁶ Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU (recast) (OJ L 158, 14.6.2019, p. 125–199) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/944/oj>